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For Immediate Release  
June 7, 2007

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**Todd Denson Sentenced For  
Multiple Federal Mail and Wire Fraud Charges**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Todd Denson**, age 47, of Portland, Maine was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 18 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$54,861.98 in restitution to four victims. **Denson** pleaded guilty to mail and wire fraud charges on November 2, 2006.

According to court records, **Denson** defrauded his victims by promising them large returns on a secure investment representing that he had amassed millions of dollars from sales of heavy machinery, from the proceeds of window washing equipment he invented and patented, or from an inheritance, which funds were then held in a foreign bank account. Typically, he told his victims that he needed their investments to secure the release of those funds. In fact, **Denson** knew that he had not amassed millions of dollars as he represented. **Denson** used those victims' investments to fund an advance fee fraud scheme into which he had been ensnared.

Court records revealed that **Denson** was originally solicited

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by e-mail and was told that he was entitled to approximately \$9,000,000, then held in foreign bank accounts. **Denson** was told that he had to pay a fee of \$1,000 to complete a transfer for the funds to him. **Denson** sent the money only to get more requests for additional funds in response. After **Denson** sent about \$60,000 of his own money, he was instructed to send \$36,000 more in order to transfer the money from British pounds into United States dollars. At that point, **Denson** needed to solicit other investors as his personal funds were depleted. He then placed an advertisement in the Portland Press Herald to which one victim responded. He also persuaded other victims to give him money and property with fabricated investment schemes. **Denson** wire transferred his victims' funds to Ghana and Scotland in an effort to complete the transaction.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the United States Secret Service.

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